

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph from page 9, line 27 to page 10, line 22 with the following replacement paragraph:

Various techniques may be utilized in order to access and drive the reset line to define and control the state of communications between the host and the IDE hard disk drive 32. In one embodiment provided by means of example but not of limitation, the system reset signal is no longer directly connected to the reset line of the AT bus 38. Instead, the system reset signal is combined with a control signal. The control signal may be provided in various manners, but, in one embodiment, is provided by a general purpose input/output register 52, such as one of the registers of a conventional PCI bridge. The control signal may be provided to the general purpose input/output register from various sources depending upon the design, including the central processing unit, the basic input output system (BIOS), the operating system or a system designer, in order to define the state of communications between the host and the hard disk drive. In the illustrated embodiment, for example, the control signal and the system reset signal are combined by an AND gate 48, with the output of the AND gate driving the reset line of the AT bus. While the relative states of the system reset line may vary based upon the signaling convention of the computer, the system reset signal is typically maintained high since the system reset signal is high under normal conditions in which the hard disk drive is not to be reset and low only in instances in which the hard disk drive is to be reset. Thus, in normal conditions in which the system reset signal is high the state of the control line will dictate the output of the AND gate 48. In this regard, while the first and second states of the control line, i.e., the reset line, may also be defined differently depending upon the signaling convention utilized by the computer, the host of one embodiment drives the control line and, in turn, the reset line high in order to maintain normal communications between the host and the hard disk drive and low in order to suspend communications with the hard disk drive and to isolate the hard disk drive from the bus. While one embodiment of a technique for controlling the reset line of the AT bus is depicted in Figure 5, other techniques may be utilized.